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Approved For Release 2004/06/09 : CIA-RDP83-00156R00030027-0

SUBJECT: (Optional)

Religious Services

OGC Has Reviewed

FROM:

Chief, Benefits and Services

NO.

STAT

DATE

TO: (Officer designation, room number, and building)

DATE

OFFICER'S INITIALS

COMMENTS (Number each comment to show from whom to whom. Draw a line across column after each comment.)

RECEIVED

FORWARDED

1. DC/BSD

22 Jan 1979

2. C/BSD

1/23

3. OGC 32
7 C 4 Hqr

22 Jan 1979

STAT Attn: [redacted]

23 Jan 79

MEMORANDUM FOR: Office of General Counsel
STAT
FROM :
Chief, Benefits and Services Division
SUBJECT : Ash Wednesday and Good Friday
Religious Services

1. Each year at this time my office arranges for Ash Wednesday (28 Feb) and Good Friday (13 Apr) religious services to be held in the Headquarters Auditorium. A Bible Study Group organized within our Employee Activity Association also meets regularly throughout the year in a Headquarters Conference Room to discuss religious matters.

2. Based on reports appearing in local newspapers, there appears to be a question of the legality of religious services being conducted in federal buildings.

3. Washington Post Staff writer Larry Kramer says, "the General Counsel of the General Services Administration, which has jurisdiction over federal office space, said any meeting of a sectarian group in Federal offices is clearly forbidden by law." Conversely, Sandra Boodman's article states that Federal Judge Quin Elson's decision on Religious Services in the Pentagon indicates that religious services can be held in federal buildings if they are held out of the view of the public. Judge Elson states religious services could be conducted in a room or auditorium.

4. In view of these conflicting articles, we request an OGC opinion regarding continuation of our current practice of scheduling Ash Wednesday and Good Friday religious services in the Headquarters Auditorium and the regular meetings of the Bible Study Group.

Att

STAT